

# EAST ASIA

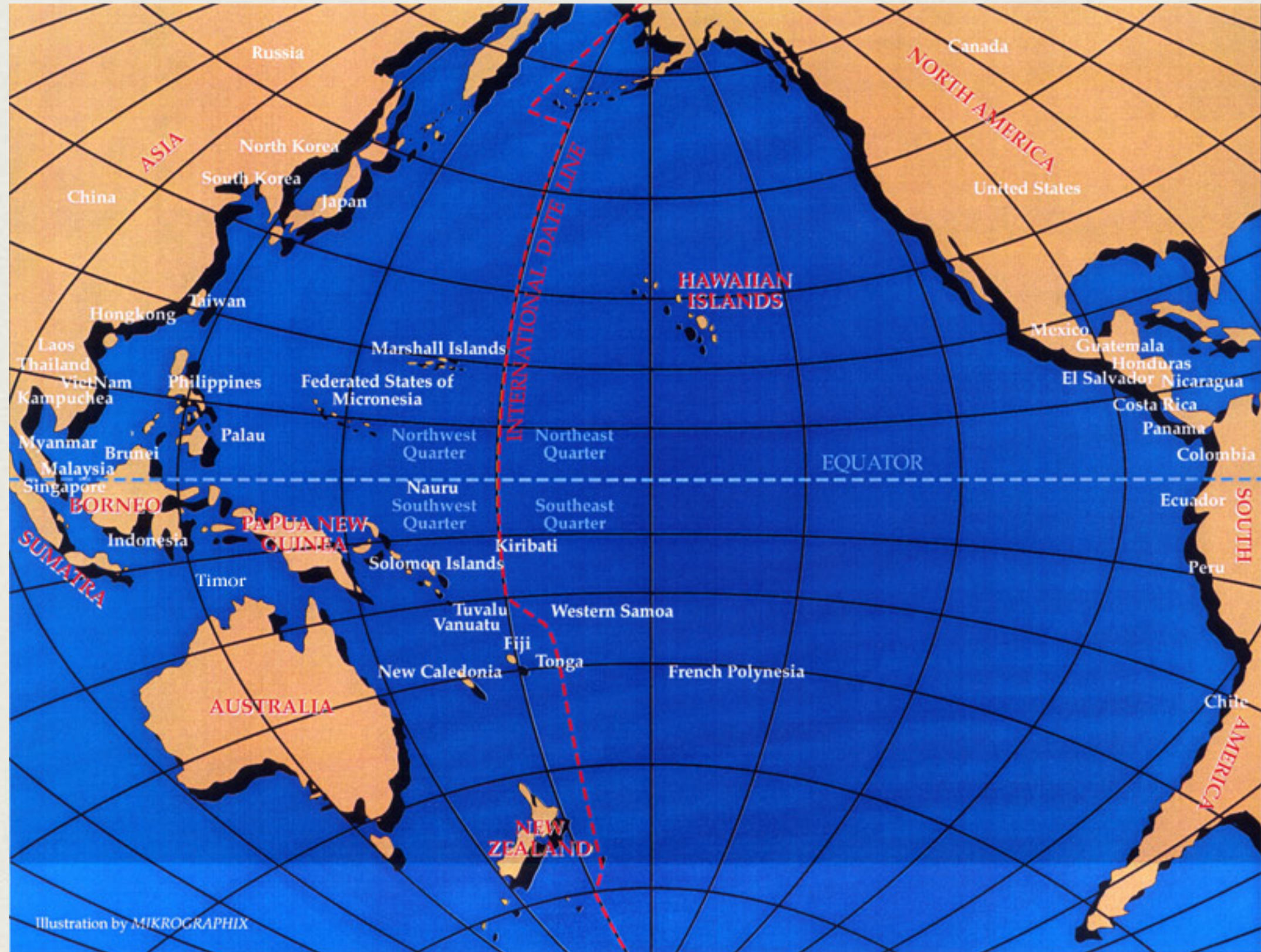
*Physical Geography*

# I. EAST ASIA REGION

- A. The world region known as East Asia is comprised of 6 countries: China, Japan, Taiwan, Mongolia, North Korea, & South Korea. It is the most populated region in the world.
- B. Most of these countries are part of what is known as the “Pacific Rim.”



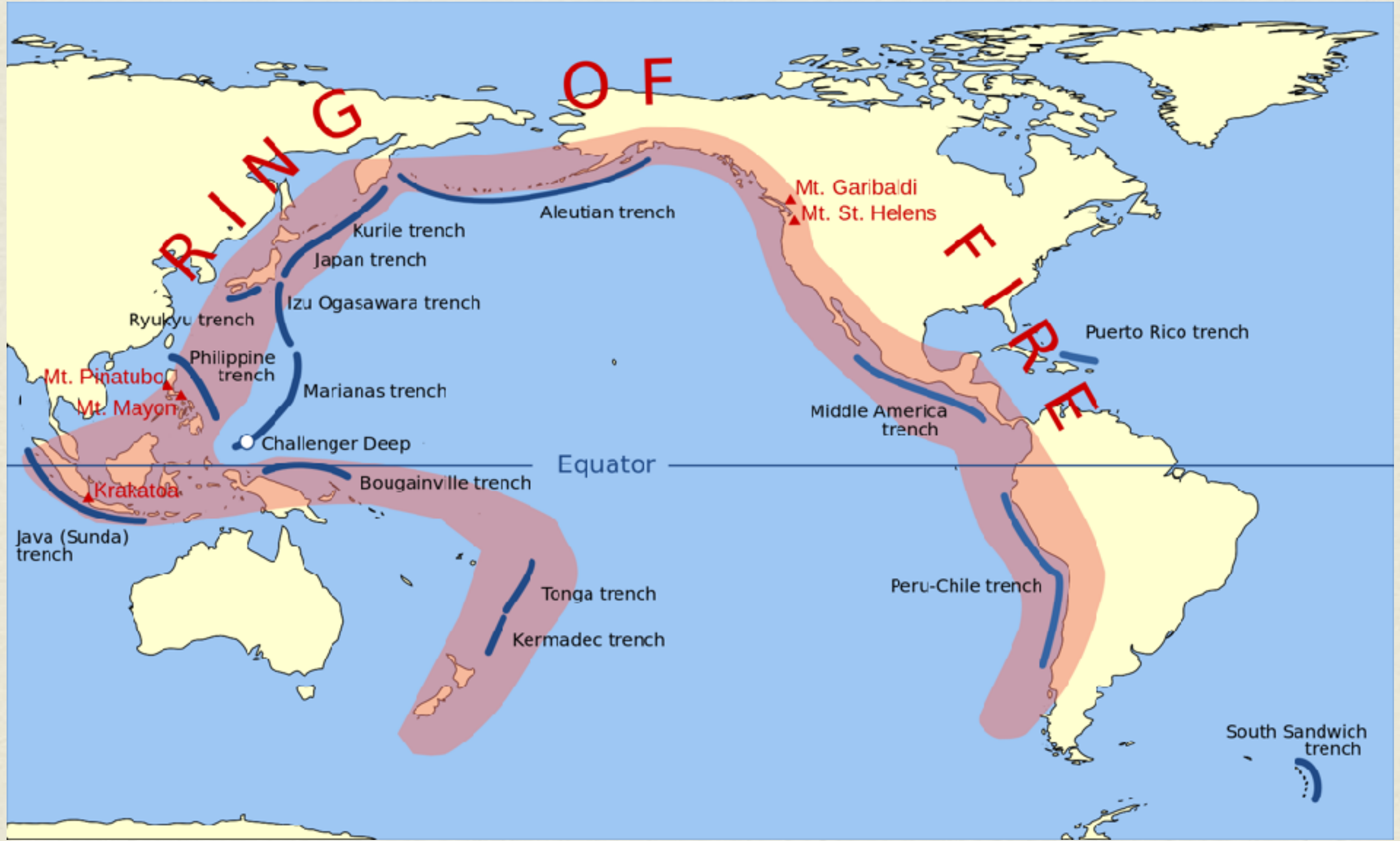
# “Pacific Rim”





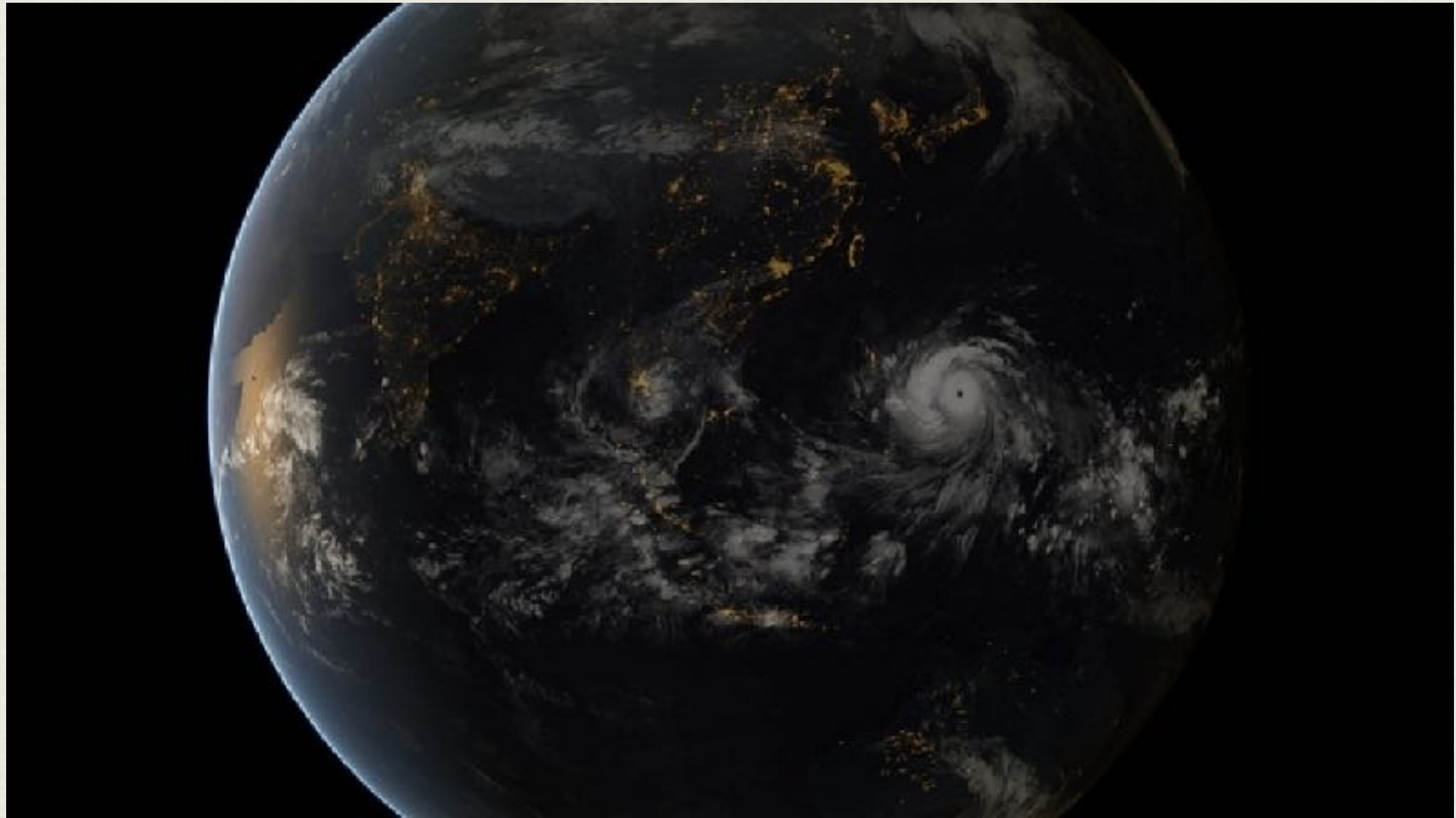
- C. This area is prone to earthquakes, volcanoes, & tsunamis since many of these countries are part of or near the “Ring of Fire.”
- Tsunami Animation (NOAA)
- Sendai, Japan







- D. This area is also hit by large tropical storms called typhoons.





# II. LANDFORMS

- A. China
  - 1. Mountain ranges & high, rugged plateaus occupy one-third of China's total land area (Himalayas & Tibetan Plateau the largest of all)







- 2. The eastern third of China in its north central region is a large plain called the North China Plain.
- 3. China's landscapes in the eastern part of the country, especially along the North China Plain are described as being "anthropogenic landscapes."
  - a. These are landscapes that have been heavily altered by human activities over time. The North China Plain is considered the MOST anthropogenic landscape in the world.



# Northern China





- B. Japan

- 1. Japan is a volcanic island archipelago. There are four main islands (from N to S): Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu.
- 2. There are also many more small islands.
- 3. Japan has more earthquakes than just about any place in the world. They are also prone to being hit by tsunamis.



## Japan's Active Volcanoes

- ▲ Volcanoes constantly monitored by the JMA
- △ Other volcanoes



Source: The Japan Meteorological Agency

Iōtō (Iwo Jima)

nippon.com



# Mt. Fujiyama, Japan





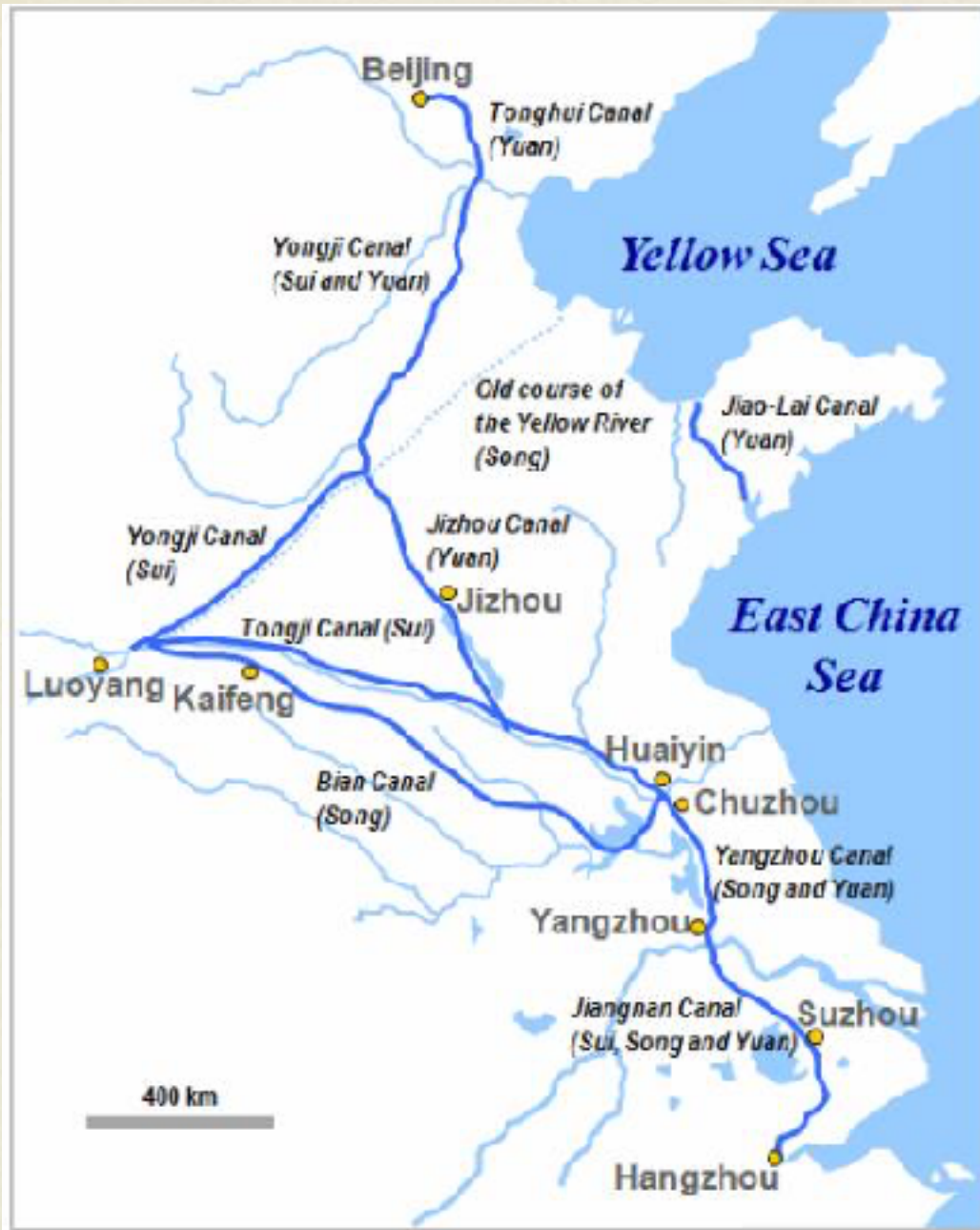




- C. The Koreas

- 1. The two Koreas are on a peninsula, the Korean peninsula and there are mountains that run along the eastern coast of both countries.





The oldest parts date back to the 5th century B.C.E.!!!!



- D. Taiwan
  - 1. Is a volcanically created island prone to earthquakes, and mudslides after heavy rain.





- E. Mongolia
  - 1. Mongolia is the only landlocked country in East Asia. Most of the country is comprised of mountains (Altay) and a plateau. (7:00)
  - 2. The Gobi Desert extends from southeast Mongolia into China.







# Gobi Desert





# III. BODIES OF WATER

- A. China
  - 1. There are several rivers in China, but there are three of major importance.
    - a. The Huang He (Yellow) River in the northern region
      - (1) The “cradle of Chinese civilization” early river valley cities
      - (2) Also know as “China’s Sorrow” due to devastating floods
      - (3) It gets its name from the silt eroded upstream called loess, fine-grained silt deposited by wind during the last glacial period.



# Yellow River Delta





- b. The Chang Jiang (Yangtze) River in the central region
  - (1) 3rd longest river in the world
  - (2) The Three Gorges Dam, built to provide hydroelectricity, has vastly altered the surrounding landscape. How?



# Rural Yangtze River



Photo source: 6iee.com



# Urban Yangtze River





# Urban Yangtze River



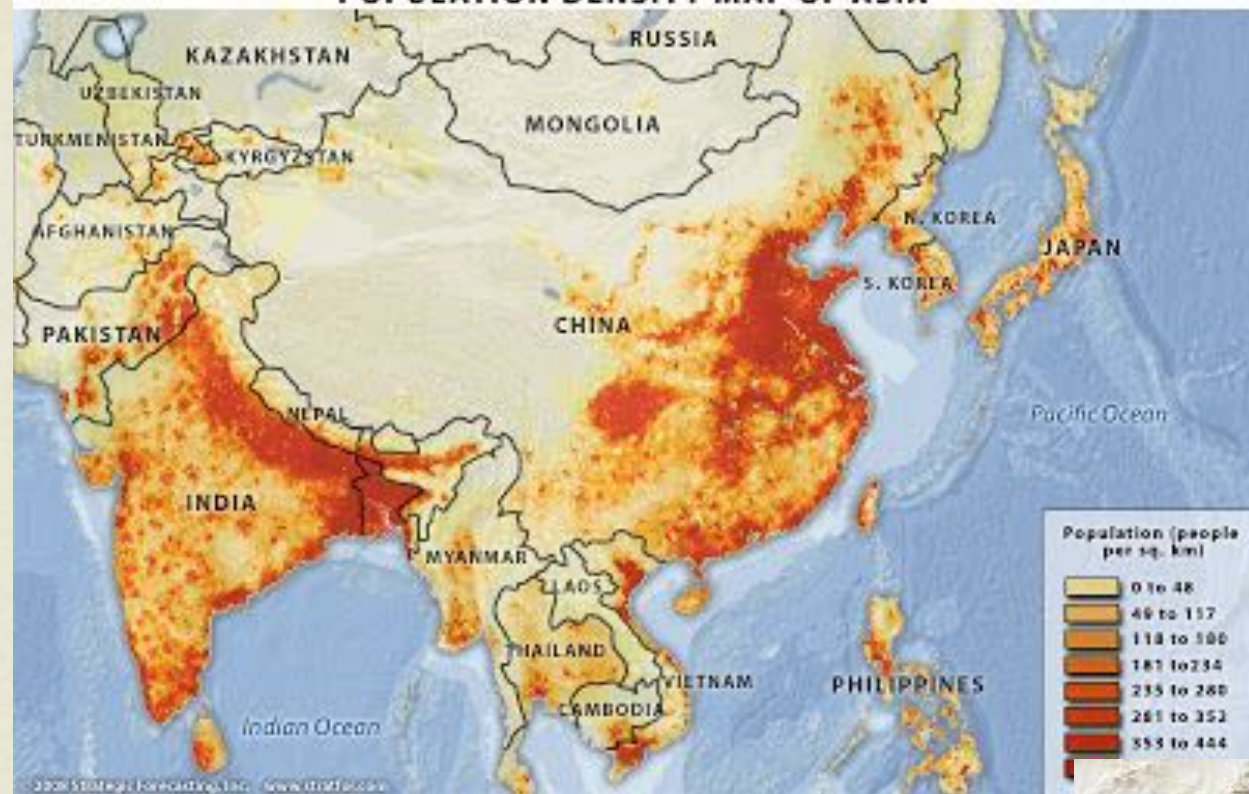


# IV. CLIMATE

- A. China's climate types are similar to that of North America due to both being about the same latitude.
  - 1. The western and interior regions are arid & semiarid.
  - 2. The eastern third is mainly humid subtropical in the south & humid continental in the north.



### POPULATION DENSITY MAP OF ASIA





- B. Japan has humid continental climates despite being surrounded by water.
- 1. The southern half of Japan is mostly humid subtropical.
- 2. The northern half of Japan is humid continental with a wide range of temperatures between summer and winter.
- 3. Japan has rainfall year-round.



- C. The Koreas have a similar climate set up as Japan.
  - 1. The southern half of S. Korea is mostly humid subtropical & in the north, it is humid continental.
  - 2. All of N. Korea is humid continental with a wide range of temperatures between summer & winter.
  - 3. The northern part of the Korean Peninsula tends to be drier in the wintertime.
- D. Taiwan is humid subtropical, a mild midlatitude climate, like ours here in Georgia.



- E. Mongolia does not experience mild climates (except a small area south of Lake Baikal) due to having no coastline and thus no large body of water to moderate its temperatures.
  - 1. In the south it is mainly cold desert and steppes.
  - 2. In the north, closer to Siberia, the climate is mainly subarctic with dry winters



# V. NATURAL RESOURCES

- A. China (58% urban)
  - 1. Due to massive rural-to-urban migration, about 42% of China's people live in rural areas. The farming industry still has the largest percentage of workers.
  - 2. China has abundant fertile farmland due to large amounts of loess, a fine-grained glacier-blown soil.



- B. Japan (94% urban)
  - 1. Japan is self-sufficient for growing rice, the main dietary staple.
    - a. Volcanic soil, which is highly fertile, is abundant since the islands were created by volcanoes.
    - b. Agriculture is very efficient in Japan since so little of their land is rural. Most of Japan is highly urbanized.
  - 2. Japan has limited natural resources and as such, must import the raw materials needed for its manufacturing sector.



- C. The Koreas
  - 1. South Korea (83% urban) is very similar to Japan as far as agriculture and urbanization is concerned.
  - 2. North Korea (61% urban), due to communism, does not utilize its land efficiently for agriculture, therefore there are frequent famines and they rely heavily on imported food.
- D. Taiwan (78% urban) had coal reserves, but has exhausted them and will need to find another way to generate energy.
- E. Mongolia (74% urban) is rich in mineral resources, that are just now being exploited.



# VI. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- A. China - all of China's environmental issues derive from its very high population.
  - 1. 70% of China's electricity is from coal burning power plants. Most of their factories also rely on coal.
    - a. This has caused massive smog issues in their urban areas.
- B. Japan is a pollution exporter. What does this mean?



# I. CLIMATE

- A. China's climate types are similar to that of the U.S. due to both being about the same latitude.
  - 1. The western and interior regions are arid & semiarid.
  - 2. The eastern third is mainly humid subtropical in the south & humid continental in the north.



# Tibetan Plateau





# Southern China - Yangtze River





# Northern China - The Great Wall in Winter





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- 3. Japan has rain year-round.



## Southern Japan - Kyushu





# Northern Japan - Japanese Alps





- C. The Koreas have a similar climate set up as Japan.
- 1. The southern half of South Korea is mostly humid subtropical and in the north, it is humid continental.
- 2. All of North Korea is humid continental with a wide range of temperatures between summer and winter.
- 3. The northern part of the Korean Peninsula tends to be drier in the wintertime.



# Seoul, South Korea in Summer





# Seoul in the Winter





# North Korean Mountains





- D. Taiwan is humid subtropical.
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